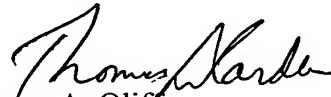


REMARKS

Claims 1 - 15 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 12 is amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claim 15 is added to compensate for the material deleted from claim 12. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TJP/mlb
Attached: Appendix
Date: January 15, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 15 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

12. (Amended) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9-~~or~~ 10, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.

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